

Message Text

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EA/ PRCM - MR. SULLIVAN

S - MR. BREMER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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EXDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, EIND, TW, CH, XC

SUBJECT: MARCH 8 ROC DEMARCHE TO SECRETARY

1. ROC AMBASSADOR JAMES SHEN, ON INSTRUCTIONS, CALLED ON SECRETARY ROGERS MARCH 8 TO CONVEY SERIES OF ROC " CONCERNS" IN WAKE OF RECENT US CHINA POLICY MOVES. HE REITERATED ROC POSITION AS LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF CHINA, RESERVED ROC POSITION ON FROZEN ASSETS, AND EXPRESSED GENERAL CONCERN FOR US/ ROC RELATIONS IN WAKE OF US/ PRC DECISION TO ESTABLISH LIAISON OFFICES.

2. AMBASSADOR SHEN SAID HE HAD SIX POINTS TO RAISE IN ACCORD WITH HIS FIRST SET OF INSTRUCTIONS: (1) AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH LIAISON OFFICES HAD SERIOUSLY HARMED ROC NATIONAL INTERESTS AND TRADITIONAL US/ ROC FRIENDSHIP; TAIPEI LEGISLATORS AND MEDIA HAD REACTED STRONGLY. (2) AS RESULT OF US ACTIONS, THERE IS HASTE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH CHINESE COMMUNISTS; ROC FEARS THIS MAY UN-
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BALANCE SITUATION IN AREA. (3) ROC IS CONCERNED THAT CERTAIN US SENATORS HAVE ADVOCATED ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH PEKING. (4) WHILE ROC UNDERSTOOD THAT STAFFS OF LIAISON OFFICES WOULD ENJOY DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY DR. KISSINGER THAT THE MISSIONS AS SUCH WOULD NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC STATUS; ROC HOPED THIS DISTINCTION

WOULD BE MAINTAINED. (5) ROC WISHED TO CALL USG ATTENTION TO ITS OFFICIAL POSITION TOWARD PEKING, I. E., THAT IT IS A REBEL REGIME WITH NO LEGAL AUTHORITY TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR CHINA, ITS ACTS ARE NULL AND VOID. (6) IN VIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, ROC HOPES PRESIDENT NIXON'S STATE OF THE WORLD MESSAGE WILL REITERATE US TIES AND COMMITMENT TO ROC.

3. IN ACCORD WITH SUBSEQUENT INSTRUCTIONS, SHEN HAD THREE ADDITIONAL POINTS: (1) ROC HOPES TO BE BRIEFED ON SECRETARY'S TALKS AT PARIS WITH CHI PENG - FEI ON CLAIMS AND FROZEN ASSETS. (2) ROC WISHES TO REITERATE ITS RIGHT TO RETAIN ANY ASSETS BELONGING TO ITS CITIZENS, NO THIRD PARTY (INCLUDING PEKING) CAN HAVE ANY LEGAL SAY ON THEIR DISPOSITION. (3) ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED, ROC WISHES US TO BRIEF IT ON PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM, SINCE CONFERENCE WILL AFFECT EA REGION AS A WHOLE. SECRETARY STATED HE HAD NOTED FIRST LIST OF SIX POINTS AND COULD SAY ONLY THAT USG WOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THEM. TO RESPOND TO FIRST OF SECOND SET OF POINTS, SECRETARY DESCRIBED BASIC AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH CHI PENG- FEI ON ASSETS AND CLAIMS. SHEN RESPONDED THAT, AS LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA, ROC "RESERVES ALL RIGHTS TO RAISE COUNTERCLAIMS". ON FINAL OF THREE POINTS, SECRETARY STATED THAT HE WOULD HAVE SOMEONE IN STATE BRIEF THE AMBASSADOR.

5. SHEN STATED HE HOPED THAT, IN FUTURE POLICY MOVES, USG WOULD TAKE FULL COGNIZANCE OF ROC POSITION AND DIFFICULTIES AND BE MINDFUL OF US/ ROC BILATERAL RELATIONS. SECRETARY SAID US WOULD DO SO.

6. SECRETARY STATED HE SAW BRIGHTER SIDE FOR ROC TO LIAISON OFFICE AGREEMENT. FOR FIRST TIME PRC HAD AGREED TO OPEN AN OFFICE AND MAINTAIN MORE OR LESS NORMALIZED
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RELATIONS AT A CAPITAL WHERE ROC RETAINED FULL DIPLOMATIC

STATUS.

7. SECRETARY ASKED ABOUT TAIWAN' S ECONOMY. SHEN
RESPONDED THAT TAIPEI WAS AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF HAVING
TOO FAVORABLE A BALANCE OF TRADE WITH THE US, AND WAS
SENDING A TRADE MISSION IN THE HOPES OF INCREASING PUR-
CHASES BY FOUR TO FIVE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS.
SECRETARY COMMENDED THE FARSIGHTEDNESS OF SUCH A POLICY.
ROGERS

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